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The American Ornithologists' Union
CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS,

Second Edition, 1895, Thoroughly Revised.



The preface to this work defines its scope and object and includes selections from the A. O. U. Code of Nomenclature, of special importance in the present connection. The table of contents consists of a systematic list of orders, sub-orders and families of North American birds. The check-list proper gives the scientific and common name, number in previous list, and geographical distribution of the 1,058 species and sub-species, constituting the North American Avifauna. This is followed by a list of birds of doubtful status, and a list of the fossil birds of North America.

This new edition has been carefully revised; the recent changes in nomenclature and species and sub-species described since the publication of the first edition in 1886 are included, while the portion relating to geographical distribution has been much amplified.

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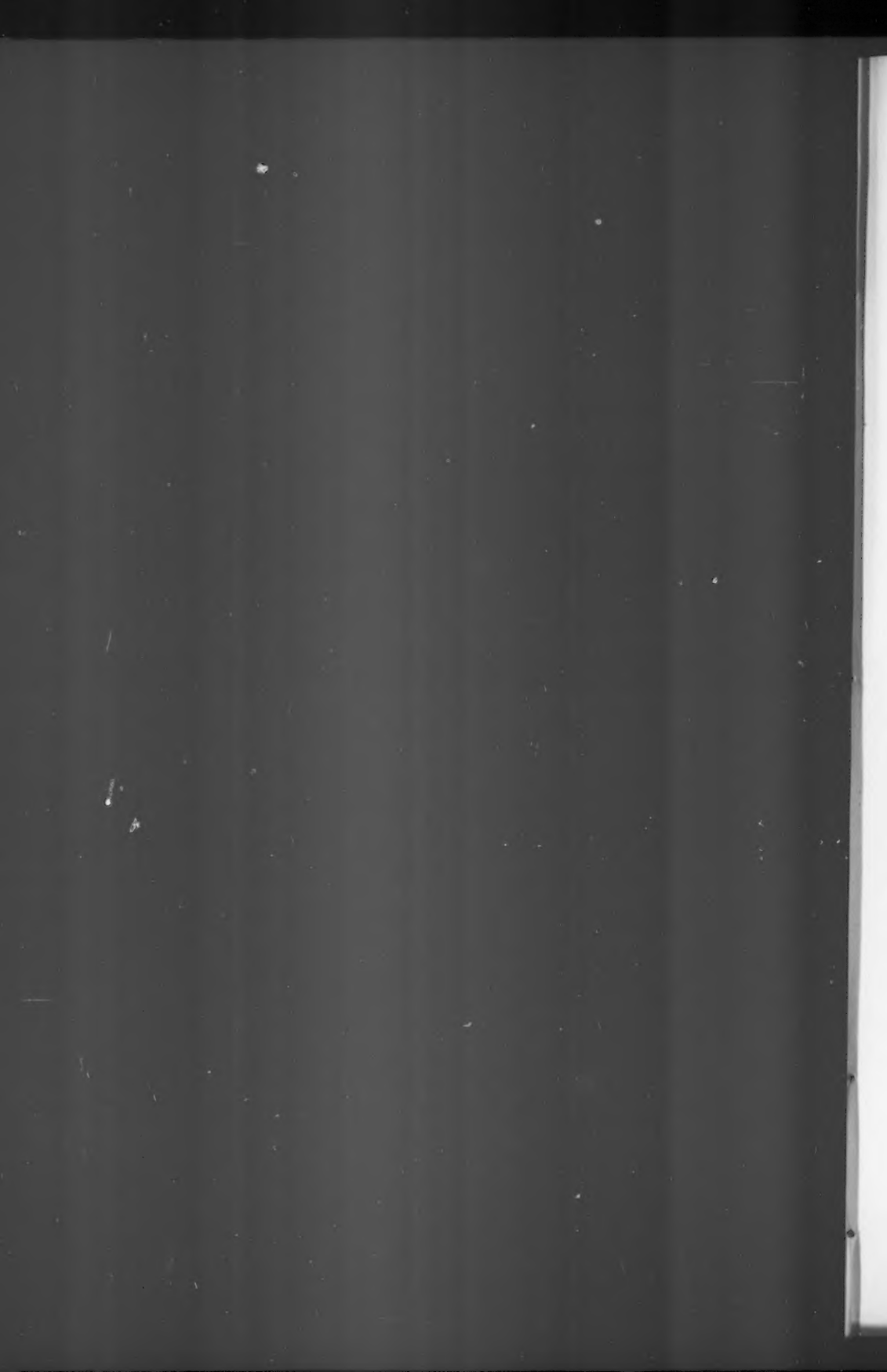


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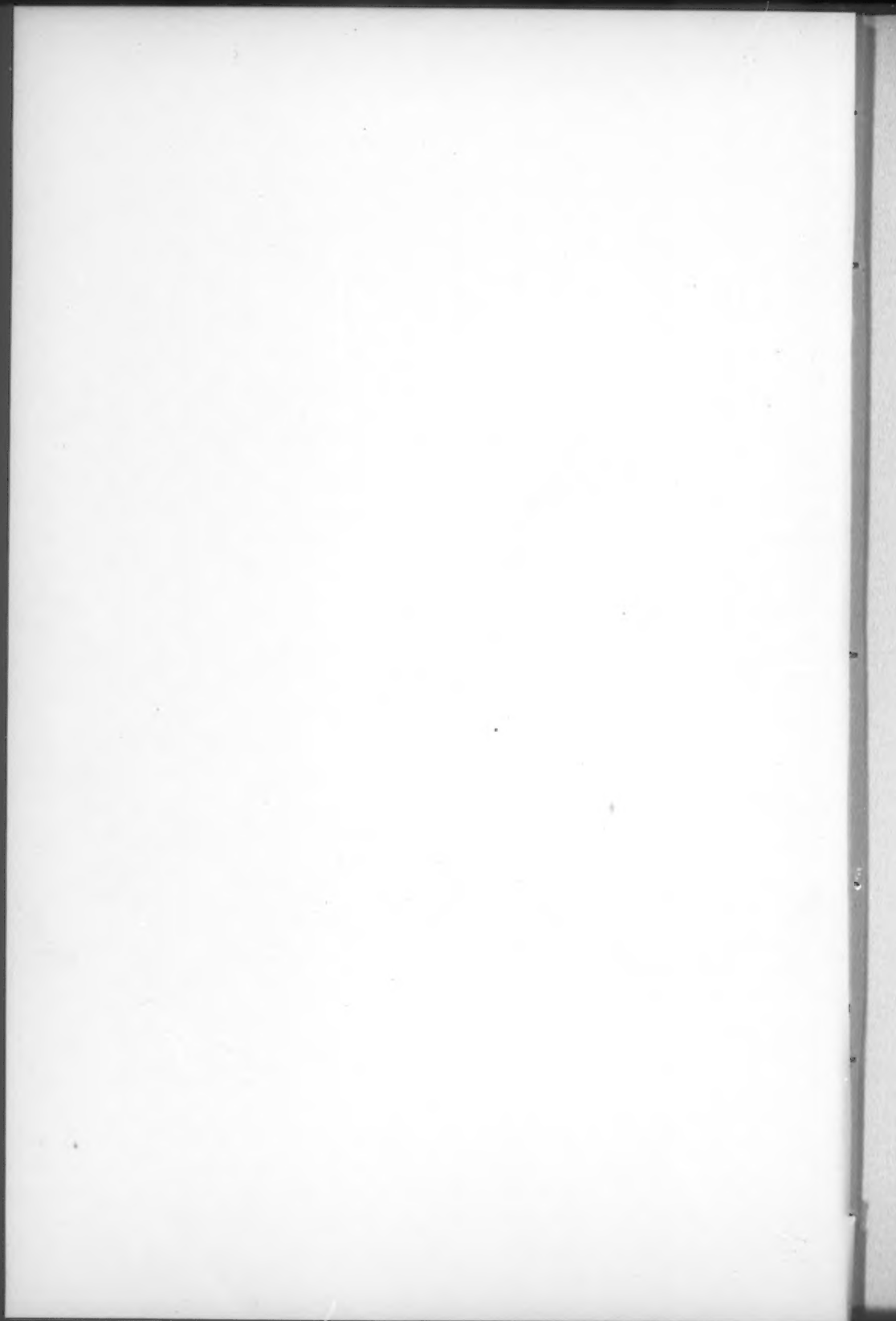
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The Rhinoceros Auklet at Catalina Island.

BY JOS. GRINNELL, PASADENA, CAL.

[Read before the Southern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club.]

TAKING advantage of the recent Christmas vacation, I spent several days at Catalina Island, which lies about 25 miles off the coast of Southern California. Although it was the last week in December, when the hills are generally beginning to take on a green hue, I found the landscape very dry and apparently not very inviting to most land-birds. However, in the ravines and in the wash extending back of Avalon, small birds, such as they were, were very numerous.

In the brush two subspecies of Fox Sparrows and a race of the Spurred Towhee were abundant and made a constant racket, scratching among the dead leaves. The noise that a pair of Fox Sparrows can produce from a pile of dry twigs and leaves is really remarkable and out of all proportion to the size of the bird. I saw a whole flock of quail hurry through a thicket in the bottom of a ravine without half the clatter that a sparrow on the hill-side, fifty yards away, was raising. Everyone who goes hunting at Catalina is ever on the lookout for foxes, which are numerous on the Island, and there is scarcely any one who does not stop and listen with gun ready for use, when he hears the rhythmic rustle of dry leaves among the dark bushes ahead of him. After all, these little birds may, at least on Catalina, merit with propriety their name of "Fox" Sparrows.

Besides the sparrows, the most abundant, and by far the most noticeable

birds, were the familiar Audubon's Warblers. They were everywhere, and individuals were to be seen even on the beaches within a few feet of the surf, as usual, busily engaged in catching flies. Dusky Warblers and Vigor's Wrens were fairly numerous, but very quiet and secretive, a mood in which they are seldom found. Possibly the next rain, if it ever comes, will dispel their gloom, and restore their naturally good spirits. At any rate I hope they will be more sociable next the time I visit Catalina, for I succeeded in obtaining only ten specimens of each, where I had expected to secure a good series of twenty or thirty.

Mockingbirds were present in moderate numbers, but were likewise quiet. Indeed, I did not hear a word from them, except their ordinary harsh call-note. They, in common with the linnets, were feeding on the ripe red fruit of the cholla cactus. Possibly some of the cactus pricklers, which render this fruit so distressing to persons when they eat it in a hurry, had got stuck in their throats, so they could not sing. There is a good opportunity for any aspiring ornithologist to make a new species out of the Catalina Mockingbird. All that I saw, had bright red faces, which is quite unusual in this genus, but the cactus may have had something to do with this also! However with the cactus factor acting on the Catalina Mockingbirds for several centuries, a truly distinct species may

be evolved, with a red face and no song.

As I was duly informed that no one was allowed to kill mockingbirds on Catalina, I, of course, did not do so. However, I succeeded in measuring the middle toes of several specimens, and they agreed in being longer than in the case of our Pasadena mockingbirds.

I secured one very interesting specimen, a partial albino Dusky Warbler, *Helminthophila celata sordida*. Several of the wing feathers and many of the body feathers are of a very light yellow tint, in marked contrast with the normal dark olive green of the rest of the plumage. Hummingbirds were remarkably numerous about the blossoming eucalyptus trees in Avalon. They were the Allen's Hummingbird, *Selasphorus aleni*. It is curious that this species, occurring on the adjacent mainland only in the spring and fall migrations, should remain throughout the winter on Catalina, in the same latitude and only twenty-five or thirty miles distant. As it breeds commonly on Catalina, this hummingbird is undoubtedly the resident form, while the Anna's Hummingbird is the resident species around Pasadena.

Among the land-birds, I was surprised not to find any Song Sparrows, Horned Larks or Meadowlarks, all of which are more or less common on Santa Barbara and San Clemente Islands.

After collecting small birds for four days very successfully, and, as I was told by a tourist, robbing the landscape of half its beauty, I determined to start in robbing the water-scape. So, in the afternoon I boarded the "Fleet-wing" for a cruise out around Seal Rock to see what there might be in the line of water birds. I was very successful in shooting away some twenty-five shells, but rather disappointed in securing but one bird, a sickly loon. However, the fact that this loon was sickly, was rather of a blessing, for the bird was delightfully lean, and the skin did not require the usual amount of cutting and scraping necessary to remove the fat which is present in such great quantities on a normal loon skin. This trip, though not bringing many specimens, taught me one thing, that a noisy,

wheezy, coughing gasoline launch is the last vessel to choose to hunt birds on. They almost all departed before the boat was within long range. Another thing, distances on the water appear a great deal shorter than they really are. One member of our party persisted in shooting at shags which were fully 150 yards distant when he declared they were within fifty yards. Shags are hard to kill, anyway. Seventy-five shells were fired and two birds dropped.

On Wednesday, December 29, my friend, Mr. Ferguson, came over to Avalon, and we decided to take a trip after water birds the next day. We secured a very neat looking round-bottomed boat, with two pairs of oars and row-locks, and just big enough for two. It had not been used for some time but the boatman assured us it would not leak. Accordingly we started early the next morning, but we had scarcely got beyond Sugar Loaf, before the boat was half full of water, more or less, and from that time on, we had to bail it out with a battered tomato can every few minutes. But such little things should not disturb an enthusiastic bird collector.

Before we had gone as far as White's Landing, I thought I discerned a stranger in the distance, and sure enough a closer view proved that we were in pursuit of a rare bird, none other than the Rhinoceros Auklet, with which this paper is supposed to mainly deal. With such a prize before us, we rowed for all we were worth, and soon were in fair range of it. A shot from a rocking boat at a target on the rolling waves, is not the easiest imaginable, and ours failed, or rather, the instant we fired, our Auklet disappeared in the water. We then rowed with "might and main" to the spot where the circling ripples told us the bird had gone down. We waited breathlessly with guns cocked. One of us was supposed to watch for him on one side of the boat, and one on the other, but after each had scanned his own horizon, neither would trust the other, and we really watched sharper on the opposite side of the boat than on our own. It was an exciting moment, for we had no idea

where the bird would come up. After a full minute, we began to cool a little, and such conjectures were made, as that he was wounded and had dove to the bottom of the ocean and was clinging to the kelp. But presently, fully 300 yards away, ahead of us, peacefully rested our bird, apparently none the worse for being shot at, but with his eye on us. We, of course, pulled for him, but he was aware of our intentions by this time, and dove before we were anywhere within range. This time we rowed far ahead of where he went down thinking to meet him when he rose, but he must have been able to see the boat on the surface of the water, for he appeared far to our right. We went for him again, going to the spot where he disappeared and thinking that he might be getting winded. After waiting an unusually long time we happened to look back of us in the dark reflection of the Island, and there he was far away on the waves. He had doubled back diving right under us. We went cautiously toward him, getting rather close, but still too far for a shot before he disappeared. This time we thought it better policy to stay right where we were, hoping that he might try to double back on us again, and sure enough, in about half a minute he came up to our left, not thirty feet away, and two charges of No. 8 met him squarely, and we had bagged, or rather, carefully stowed in the collecting basket, our first Rhinoceros Auklet. We spent the rest of the day chasing Auklets, each time with about the same experience, but nearly always, if we stuck to it, finally getting our bird. We worked harder that day, than either of us had before for many months, as blistered hands testified, but I felt well paid, as the result was ten fine specimens of the Rhinoceros Auklet, besides a couple of Am. Eared Grebes and a Pacific Loon.

The manner and pose of the Rhinoceros Auklet, resting or swimming on the water are quite different from those of any other sea bird met with around Catalina. It is short and chunky with head drawn in close to the body, leaving scarcely any tract that might be called a neck. The water line comes

up to about the lower edge of the wings when closed against the body, so that the bird does not rest lightly on the water like a Gull or Phalarope. The head is held on the same line as the body directly out in front, so that the top of the head and back are on the same level. The whole bird at a little distance looks most like a block of wood floating on the water. We did not once see one flying. They all preferred to dive. One which was shot at and probably slightly wounded, attempted to take flight but failed to get clear of the water, and after dragging along the surface for several feet, instantly dove. The great ease and rapidity which is shown in diving and traveling under water is remarkable. When we showed a specimen to the boatman, he said that it was called a "fool-hen," because it would not get out of the way, but generally allowed a boat to run right over it. However I think the term "fool-hen" appropriate, for they certainly fooled us many times. We heard no note and there was never but one in sight at a time. They were mostly seen about a quarter of a mile from shore. The food consisted entirely of a small yellow crustacean, which filled their gullets. We saw none of these anywhere near the surface of the water, so they must have been caught by diving to a considerable depth. The water where the Auklets were feeding was from thirty to one hundred fathoms in depth. The Rhinoceros Auklet is probably a regular common winter visitant along our coast.

MR. A. P. REDINGTON writes from Santa Barbara: "While descending the road over the San Marcos Pass here recently, we came upon a Condor who allowed us to approach within fifty yards or so before taking wing. I opposed any attempt to secure the bird, thinking that the possibility of an egg in the future might be of more value than the skin. We can almost guarantee at least the *sight* of this species in a day's trip down the Santa Ynez range."

Prominent Californian Ornithologists. W. OTTO EMERSON.

MANY of the oologists and ornithologists of today will remember tenderly the time when the writings of the older field workers were read, like fairy tales, with an awe indescribable, and numbered among those who wrought these charms, is the subject of our sketch, Mr. W. Otto Emerson. Mr. Emerson, whose cordial manner and wealth of entertaining bird topics have ranked him as one of the foremost pioneer ornithologists of California, has spent twenty years in active field work at Haywards and along the coast, his work commencing about 1880, ten years after he came to California from his home sixty miles west of Chicago. Almost all of his notes were published in the *Ornithologist & Oologist*, to the columns of which magazine he was a popular and frequent contributor. Mr. Emerson later contributed to the *Nidologist* and will henceforth publish his notes in the BULLETIN.

Two papers of special value were published in the Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, one on "Winter Birds of San Diego Co., Cal., in 1884, and "Birds and Eggs from the Farallon Islands" in 1887, edited by Mr. Walter E. Bryant. The latter paper comprised the first complete observations ever made on the Island bird

life, eighty-one species or varieties being noted in the months of May and June 1887. During Mr. Emerson's field work he has taken ten birds new to the fauna of California and published over thirty papers. His present collection consists of 3,000 skins and 10,000 eggs, many with nests.

Mr. Emerson is now serving his second term as president of the Cooper Ornithological Club, having previously

occupied other positions of honor in the Club and having been always one of its active members and supporters. Mr. Emerson is an ardent naturalist within the full meaning of the term, and has made photography as much a part of his collecting as the gun, while his note books, carefully kept for twenty years, contains a wealth of valuable notes on the birds of the coast counties of California. The BULLETIN will soon print



his list of the Birds of Santa Cruz County. His skill as a taxidermist, and his exquisite touch as an artist are not less pronounced than the other traits which mark him as a true naturalist. Only those who have known Mr. Emerson personally can appreciate his cordiality and he is today one of the most popular ornithologists of the Golden State. The portrait given is one of Mr. Emerson in his artist costume. C. B.

Nesting of *Hylocichla aonalaschkae auduboni* in the Sierra Nevadas.

BY LYMAN BELDING, STOCKTON, CAL.

[Read before the Northern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, Mar. 4, 1899.]

THIS is the bird I named *Turdus sequoiensis* a few years ago, but as

I neglected to send enough specimens to the Committee of the A. O. U. to convince them it was worthy of a new name, they finally "considered it to be identical with the Audubon's Hermit Thrush of the Rocky Mountains," and I suppose it so stands at present. By any other name it would sing just as sweetly.

It is the finest song bird of the Pacific Coast, breeding in many localities in the Sierras, on both slopes, usually choosing damp, densely-wooded localities for a summer home. It begins to sing about the middle of May at 5,000 feet altitude, below which it is seldom found in summer, and sings until about the first of September, when it leaves for warmer regions.

Altogether I have found seven nests of this bird; all of them were within a few feet of paths. They were mostly well-concealed, but one was the reverse, having been saddled on a fallen, dead, barkless fir sapling, with nothing to

hide it except a few dead and leafless twigs. This nest contained four young which were quite fit to leave the nest about the middle of June. The eggs appear to be four or less. Three of the nests were in yew trees (*Taxus*), one was in a hazel bush (*Corylus*) and two were in deer brush (*Ceanothus*). The highest was about ten feet from the ground and the lowest about three feet. There was more or less moss (*Hypnum*) in all of the nests though the materials used in them varied considerably.

I hope this information will help ornithologists to find a few eggs of this very interesting bird and that they will forever afterward refrain from molesting this charming songster, to which I am indebted for many, many happy hours. Two photographs of one nest were kindly taken at my request, in 1898, but Mr. L. E. Hunt of Berkeley, Cal. The nest represented was built on a fallen cone of a sugar pine (*P. lambertiana*) which had lodged in a deer brush.

A Day With the Raptors.

BY ERNEST ADAMS, SAN JOSE, CAL.

[Read before the Northern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, Mar. 4, 1899.]

JUST as the messengers of Old Sol were speeding away toward the beautiful Santa Clara Valley, on the morning of April 12, 1898, I was urging my pony up the gentle grade toward Mt. Hamilton. Why I had decided to go in that direction I could not tell; I could not boast of *Buteos* I had taken in that vicinity, nor of *Bubos*, and when the thought of seeing eggs of the Golden Eagle *in situ* entered my head I cast it out, declaring that it belonged to only such fellows as Barlow and Taylor. I had grown careless of late; my Kites had failed me, my favorite grove for collecting eggs of the smaller birds had been cut down, and now my destination was perhaps as good as any I had in mind, though it was quite probable that Beck had been over the same ground

only a short time before. And right here let me say if there is anyone who hopes to find his first egg of *Aquila chrysaetos*, he must beware of this collector whose climbers mark many a tree east of here! I had to learn the lesson once though it cost me a fine set. I will not say how long I continued my delightful ride before hitching my horse and starting over the hills on foot, for that is one of those secrets that only oologists have.

April 18, 1896 I had removed from a newly constructed nest only ten feet in a small oak, one egg of a Western Red-tail, advanced in incubation. On April 13, 1897 a friend found two young Horned Owls in this same nest and I was hoping to find the old bird there this year, but you can imagine my sur-

prise when I beheld a hawk leave the nest and sail off in the air. The nest had been greatly enlarged and contained two fresh eggs. They resembled the one taken in 1896 but there are no distinguishing marks of identity, and I am yet undecided whether this old nest was occupied by the original pair of birds or a new pair. It seems altogether probable that they were the same ones which nested in 1896, though I am sure they were not there the following year. Passing on, I visited the hollow under a large rock and tree from which I took a beautiful set of two Turkey Vulture's eggs two years before, but there were no signs of its having been inhabited since. From an old nest situated in the hollow of an oak seventeen feet from the ground, I took a nice set of two Horned Owls measuring 2.13x1.81 and 2.13x1.85. Two nests of the Desert Sparrow Hawk were found, each about twenty feet from the ground in oak trees, one cavity containing four eggs, the other an incomplete set of two.

Then came one of those long tramps which you are led to take by seeing a mirage of most beautiful eggs, and though as you come to the top of each hill you swear you will go no farther than the next, you are led on and on until the sun, after repeated warnings, slowly sinks behind the distant mountains and night claims her own.

Woe to the person who meets the collector at this time if it has been an "off day" with him. But it was not quite as late as this when I seated myself on a rock at the top of my last hill and looked with longing eyes toward the next, beyond which I knew must be the best canyon in the country. I could not resist and hastened over. A Redtail catching sight of me left her nest with loud discordant screams, and well she might scream for never again was she to see those three beautiful eggs, except perchance some day, mounted and holding an edified position over my cabinet, she may look down upon them through her glassy eyes as I show them to an interested friend. On and on I went until, coming out of a little ravine, I saw another hawk resting on her nest. She too,

soon joined her mate on a leafless tree fifty yards away. Eagerly I ran to the tree but alas, it was a sycamore, its main trunk as devoid of limbs as a newly formed flag-pole. I looked down the canon perhaps in the hope of seeing Beck coming along with his climbers but I was alone. Setting my teeth in determination, I conquered the seeming impossibility, and there soon lay before me not two nor three, but four eggs, of the Redtail, who was now dashing furiously at me. The eggs which are rather large and evenly washed with a yellowish brown color, are quite unlike any I had ever seen before.

Far up the canon was another nest and I was still some distance from it when the bird flew away. It was not a Redtail but a Golden Eagle. I had thought there was excitement in collecting eggs of the White-tailed Kite but they are not "in it" at all with the Eagles. I felt myself rising far above the amateurs and being set down with the Upper Ten! There was no more hesitation at climbing a sycamore, and I had soon traversed the intervening twenty-eight feet and was intently gazing upon three eggs of this far-famed raptore. The eggs are quite large, measuring 3.08x2.44; 3.08x2.44; 3.08x2.40. One is heavily marked with reddish brown and the other two are nearly covered with lavender intermixed with dark brown. Incubation, one week.

Although it has been proven that Eagles of this species sometimes lay a second time after being robbed, (*Osprey* II, 6-7, p. 84) notwithstanding the lateness of the deposition of these, (April 12), I am inclined to believe that it was their only set. The birds appeared to be an old pair and had lost a number of wing feathers. The nest was an immense affair and had probably been added to for a number of years. This ended my day's collecting, with which I was quite satisfied and as I hastened along over the hills, each star appearing in the darkened gloom above me seemed to whisper, "To be successful let not a hill remain between you and the next canyon, for it is the *next* in which the eagles lay and happiness reigns."

Nesting of the Water Ouzel.

BY J. M. WILLARD, OAKLAND, CAL.

[Read before the Northern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, Sept. 3, 1898.]

JOHN MUIR'S chapter on the Water Ouzel in his "Mountains of California" aroused a great interest in me when I found them nesting on Pescadero Creek. Pescadero Canon is in the heart of a great forest of redwood, spruce and pine which covers the mountains for miles on every side. The stream is of good size and the lower eight miles before it finds the sea is of easy slope. During the spring of 1897 and 1898 I made several trips to this creek and on May 23-24, 1898, nine nests were found.

When we awoke on the morning of May 22 it seemed that after raining almost all night, the clouds had settled down over the mountains, soaking the interior of the trees where the rain had failed to reach. We left our wheels at the mountain house and started afoot over the 18 miles of wet forest road which lay between us and a ranch where we were to stop. Once over the ridge we could see miles of great redwoods, while in the hazy distance was the second ridge, yet to be crossed before we reached the foot of the grade. Under a large bridge that crossed the stream was an Ouzel's nest which was examined by letting my companion down until he could reach it. The nest was incomplete, lacking the lining. The moss of which it was composed was still wet from the soaking the old birds had given it, for when they build a nest each piece of moss is soaked in the stream, the birds dipping it again and again.

Leaving the stream we started over the second ridge and reached Pescadero Creek. Here we found two more nests, both inaccessible, as they were placed under bridges over which the road passed. Both were finished and one contained young; the latter nest was at least thirty feet above the water and from below looked like a ball of green moss six inches in diameter. Beside it was a last year's nest, gray with dust that had sifted through from above. A great stratum of sandstone pushed out

into the stream between these two bridges and on the up-stream side the rock rounded and then dropped straight into the rushing water. In a shallow cleft, overhung by a large cluster of ferns, was another nest. This cleft was parallel to the water, and about three feet above it, and its edges were so rounded that the nest had a very insecure base,—in fact, when I let my friend down by the heels to reach it, it fell into his hands at first touch. As this nest is typical I will describe it. In front it looked like a large ball of green moss, with a round opening in the middle about an inch and a half in diameter. The walls were of moss, two inches thick in front, but much thinner next the rock. A sparse lining of small water-soaked twigs was used; but sometimes the lining is of grass or is dispensed with entirely. The outer surface of the nest was roughly finished, looking like the moss-covered rock itself, while the inside was comparatively smooth. I climbed down to a rock in the stream nearly in front of the nest and but a few feet away. Immediately a bird flew from it and alighted on a rock, where, after courtesying a few times in the comical way usual with Dippers, she flew up stream and we saw her no more. This nest contained four eggs in which incubation was far advanced.

Last June I removed an empty nest from this identical location and on July 23, 1898, I found still another in the same place, also empty. All were identical except in linings, that of June 1897 being of grass, of May 1898, of twigs, while the nest of July 1898 had no lining at all. The following day we went over the mountains to another canon. Our first nest here was oval-shaped and placed on the shelf of a high, over-hanging cliff, directly above the water. As we approached, the parent left, she having been feeding her young. The broken egg shells had been pushed from the nest into the water where they could be plainly seen. I knelt on my friend's shoulders and he waded into the pool.

When I touched the nest the five young ones started up their clatter, and renewed it from time to time for nearly an hour. When the parents came back one went into the nest but flew away almost immediately and was soon followed by its mate. The nest was nine inches long by seven high, its opening two inches across; it was lined with soaked sticks. The young were dark-skinned and partially feathered.

Proceeding up the stream some 200 yards I saw another Ouzel with a large worm in her beak. She was very tame and allowed me to approach within ten feet. Then I sat down on a log while she stood on a rock in mid-stream, courtesying from side to side and twitching her tail. Soon she flew past me down stream to her nest on a moss-covered clay bank, about eight feet above the running water. It was not so well built as the others and more bulky. The young were nearly feathered, as one little fellow showed by crawling into the opening to look out. Almost half a mile down stream from this one, past the cliff nest where the parents were industriously feeding their babies, we found another nest. At this point in the canon the stream ran over bedrock for several hundred feet, at an angle of about thirty degrees. The water ran very swiftly in a natural sluice, worn out of the solid slate. This sluice was about five feet wide, close to a deep cliff, and on a shelf of this cliff, several feet above the foam of the stream, was an Ouzel's nest. Needless to say I did not disturb it as it contained birds.

At the foot of the incline just mentioned, the water struck a great rock, rebounded into the air and fell twenty or thirty feet into a large, deep pool. On either side of this pool the cliffs rose hundreds of feet, sheer on one side and overhanging on the other, stopping all passage down stream. On the farther side of the pool was a shallow cave above which another pair of Ouzels had built their nest on a projection of rock. The young must have been pretty well grown and kept up a great clatter. On returning to Pescadero Canon a boy showed me another nest of this interesting bird. This one was built in the roots of an upturned tree which the

stream had undermined. The water flowed directly under and about three feet below the nest, which contained four fresh eggs. On July 20, 1898, I was again in Pescadero Canon and located still another nest in the roots of an old tree which had floated down stream and lodged under a great rock. There were young in the nest and at that late date they must have been nearly matured. Thus out of nine nests found May 22, 23 and 24, one had fresh eggs, one incubated eggs, one was incomplete and the others held young of varying ages.

Early Hummingbirds' Nesting.

With accustomed regularity the hummingbirds are found nesting in California soon after the dawn of the New Year. The severity or mildness of the winters affect them not at all and a walk in January will usually disclose one or more of the tiny creatures buzzing about the cypress trees where the early nests are more often placed. Mr. Walter E. Bryant records the first nest and eggs of *C. anna* for 1899, at Santa Rosa, Cal. January 28. On February 12 I collected a nest of two eggs near Mt. View, Santa Clara, Cal., in which incubation was well begun. The nest was in a cypress tree, built on a twig rather close to the trunk.

C. BARLOW, Santa Clara, Cal.

House Finches Again.

Experience has taught me that House Finches may nest anywhere. I have found them occupying nests of orioles, towhees, grosbeaks, cliff swallows, blackbirds and portions of hawks' abodes; besides tin cans, old hats and stove pipes and now I shall add hollow limbs. One bird entering the opening of a small cavity actually squeezed her way back for two and a half feet to sit on her eggs in total darkness. Another reared her brood in the deep cavity of a Californian Woodpecker in an oak while a third selected a similar hole in a telegraph pole. The latter contained six eggs. ERNEST ADAMS, San Jose, Cal.

Capture of a California Condor.

BY H. G. RISING, LOS ANGELES, CAL.

[Read before the Southern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, Jan. 28, 1899.]

I WAS out on a hunting trip after deer, with a party of three Santa Monica boys and a rancher named Decker, who was showing us over the mountains. We had divided our party, and Decker and myself were together, while the others went in a different direction. We started before daylight and hunted until about 9 o'clock without seeing any deer. We decided that there was no use in trying any more that morning, and started for the cabin in which we were camped. When we came to the top of one of the rocky ridges, which we had to cross, we stopped a moment to get our breath as the climbing was rather steep. In front of us lay a very deep rocky canyon, and opposite the point on which we stood was a limestone cliff, about 175 feet high. The canyon dropped down in a succession of small waterfalls through an opening in this cliff. We were a little above the top of the cliff and consequently had a fine view of it.

While standing there I noticed an adult Vulture perched about twenty-five feet below the top of the cliff and showed her to Decker. We watched her a few minutes and then tried to scare her by shouting at her, but she would not take wing. We then threw stones at her but they all fell short, striking the cliff far below her perch. At last Decker proposed that I should shoot at the cliff near her but I declined, saying that he had better do so as his rifle was smaller than mine. I cautioned him to be careful not to hit her, and he told me that he was going to shoot to one side of where she sat. He raised his rifle and fired, and I was astonished to see her go tumbling and fluttering down the cliff. I turned to Decker and proceeded to remonstrate with him for shooting the bird, but he declared that he had not shot at her and did not understand how he had made such a bad shot.

I told him that, as he had killed her, I might as well try to get her skin but he said that it was impossible to get to the bottom of the cliff, as the falls above and below could not be passed without

a rope. I intended to try however, so I started to get below the cliff so as to climb up. Meanwhile Decker went back to camp. When part way down the cliff I saw a young Vulture sitting on a narrow ledge about half way up the cliff, and off to one side of the gorge where the water came through. I then understood why the old bird would not leave. After a hard climb I at last reached the base of the cliff and there found the old bird with one wing crippled, but still full of fight. After a hard tussle with her, I at last succeeded in killing her by driving the heavy blade of my knife into her brain. She used her beak and claws with good effect and I would have been well scratched had I not had on heavy overalls and leather leggings. She also fought with her wings, striking a pretty severe blow. I found later while skinning her that she had been struck either by the bullet glancing, or by a splinter of rock, as the only wound she had was a severe bruise on the breast next the wing and the bone broken, while the skin was still intact. The bullet must have flattened out and had sufficient force to break the bone and still not break the skin.

After disposing of the old bird I thought that I would try and climb a little nearer the young one so as to get a better look at it. I climbed up the falls until opposite the ledge on which the young bird sat and was delighted to find that it ran all the way over to the fall, so that I could get across without much difficulty. I went across, and when I got nearly to the bird the ledge widened out to a width of about five feet. The young one immediately showed fight, and I found that if I tried to do anything with it on the ledge, that it would surely throw me over. So I poked it off with my rifle which I still carried, and it half flew and half fell to the bottom. I left my rifle on the ledge and went down the way I came, as fast as I dared climb. When I reached the bottom I found the young one on top of a big boulder that was about fifteen feet high. I climbed up a sycamore

sapling, that fortunately was growing close beside the rock, and soon poked him off with a dry limb. By the time I had got down again he was across the canyon and hopping up the rocks on the opposite side, using both his wings and his feet. I started up after him and reached up and caught him by one leg, just as he was about to make another jump. He reached down with his beak for my hand, but I was fortunate enough to get hold of his neck with my other hand before he caught me. He struggled and flapped his wings and I had a hard time of it for a few minutes, but at last I managed to tie his feet with my handkerchief. I then tore the braid off the brim of my hat and tied his beak securely, getting two or three awful pinches before I finished. I then slung him over my shoulder, holding him by the feet, and started to climb up the canyon, leaving the dead bird and my rifle to take care of themselves. At last I got up over the falls, getting some hard tumbles meanwhile. Every time I had a particularly hard stretch to climb he would spread his wings and try to fly and would pull me over and down I would

go to the bottom, and not as comfortably as I would have liked. However, I at last got him to camp and put him in an old chicken house, which was on the place. That afternoon one of the boys and I went back and brought the rifle and dead Vulture to camp.

The next afternoon I got him to eat some raw venison by putting a small piece on the end of a sharp stick. At first he would pick at it, but after a while he got tired and would only open his mouth and hiss. I then forced a piece of paper in his throat and he had to swallow it to keep from choking. After a little he began to understand that it was good to eat and then there was no further trouble about his eating. Inside of three days he would eat out of my fingers without offering to peck at me. I had more trouble in teaching him to drink but finally managed to teach him that also. He measured just eight feet across the wings when I procured him, and was probably about five months old. I captured him on the 25th day of August, 1898. He is growing right along, and seems to be in perfect health, and gives promise of becoming a very fine pet.

Nesting of the Wilson's Snipe in Utah.

ACCORDING to most, if not all the authorities, this species nests in the north, but I have found them breeding in this locality in abundance and have taken their eggs for several years. They arrive early in April, as soon as the snow is off the shallow ponds and low lands, and their whistle becomes a familiar sound both during the day and in the evening. Nest building commences soon after they arrive and nests have been found from April 29 to as late as July 11.

The nests are invariably placed within a few inches of the water, either stagnant, or by the side of irrigating ditches or waste streams. The nest is composed of dry wire grass loosely laid into a shallow platform, though occasionally raised two or three inches above the surface of the ground. Occasionally they select for a site the top of a hummock, but usually the nest is flat on the ground and extremely difficult to find as the eggs and nest have the general appearance of the surrounding

dead grass and rushes.

The eggs exhibit the greatest possible variation in markings and colors, a well selected series showing about the handsomest variation of any I have seen, unless it be those of the Sharp-shinned Hawk. Typical specimens are of a dull yellow background, shaded and overlaid with bold heavy blackish and brown markings. These markings are usually long in proportion to their width and form a "corkscrew" appearance on the shell, extending from the pointed end of the egg in an oblique right direction, and seldom straight toward the larger end. In some specimens the ground color is a bright yellowish shade in which case the markings are usually very bold and distinct; in others the markings are highly colored running through all the shades from rich sienna to deep brown and blackish. The bird is never shot here for game and breeds without molestation.

H. C. JOHNSON,

American Fork, Utah, Jan. 27, '99.

Coming of the Mockingbird.

BY W. OTTO EMERSON, HAYWARDS, CAL.

[Read before the Northern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, March 4, 1899.]

MY first acquaintance with *Mimus* in the vicinity of Haywards was on Nov. 28, 1888 when one was seen feeding on late pears left in the trees. He had been making his home about the orchard for a month or more, singing cheerily every bright, sunny day and so far as known this was the first occurrence of the Mockingbird so far north as San Francisco, although it is a resident of Southern California, frequenting the orange groves. The Mockingbird was not seen about Haywards again until October, 1894 when he made his appearance in a winter pear tree beside the house. All through the clear days of winter he could be heard singing gaily from the tops of the pear or large pepper trees, now and then mimicking and silencing all the other birds about the place, with very low, subdued notes.

As the spring days lengthened his song became stronger, and could be heard through all the dale, the neighbors each commencing to notice and to claim him. By the latter part of April 1895 he disappeared only to return in November, and quickly leave as though some duty called him. It was Nov. 2, 1896 when he next came and I have now grown to look for him as a regular wandering winter minstrel. He has become so tame as to take up his roosting place in a climbing Cherokee rose vine which runs over the rear gable of the house, close to a window at which is my work table. I could look on him as he came to his lodgings, which were always approached with a sharp outcry, while at other times he would announce it was roosting time by perching on the tall flowering spikes of a garden plant and crying out in a harsh clicking note which could be heard for several hundred feet. Then he would jump into the air, spread his black and white wings, and sail over the ridge of the house to his one favorite branch among the climbers, where he always sat facing the side of the house.

In the morning the same warning

notes were given before he would leave the climber and after feeding early he would generally perch himself on the ridge of the house to salute the sun as it touched this point. Following a rainy day he would alight on the ground to feed on the worms which seem to come up after a warm rain. I have noticed that after eating his fill of the pink pepper berries he would go to rest on the house ridge and disgorge the hard kernels of the seed, as I have also seen the Cedar Waxwings do. My attention was first drawn to this by finding great numbers of seed kernels in the roof gutters, and on watching the Mockingbird one morning I noticed that the mode of throwing them out was by jerking his head to one side; this dislodged the kernels and the pulp of the berries was retained. The Waxwings come in May in large bands and fill themselves with these berries, flying then to orchard or creek trees where they sit puffed up in little brown balls, disgorging the kernels which later take root and grow.

In the spring of 1897 *Mimus* began to show a great deal of playfulness by chasing away the robins from the pepper trees and from about the house even down to the orchard, sailing at them with his flashing white-barred wings and tail, until all had left his grounds. At no time does he wander off the place nor has he brought a mate in returning each fall; perhaps he is waiting to see how we will protect him first, before venturing to set up house-keeping among the fruit orchards and gardens of this locality.

MR. H. C. JOHNSON writes from American Fork, Utah, under date of Jan. 22, that a snowstorm prevented him from a trip in quest of the breeding grounds of Clarke's Nutcracker, but he hopes to locate his prize this season, in which case BULLETIN readers will be regaled with an account of the trip, together with photographs.

Echoes from the Field.

Fall Notes from Haywards, Cal. On October 30, 1898 I noticed for the first time in this locality the Western Nighthawk (*C. virginianus henryi*.) It was flying southward high in air just after sun-down in long zigzag sweeping circles, no doubt feeding as it flew to a more inviting winter home. In nineteen years' observation at Haywards this is my first record of the Nighthawk. I am told they are common on the east side of the range in the San Joaquin valley. At Poway, San Diego Co., they occur commonly as spring migrants.

RED BREASTED NUTHATCH. (*Sitta canadensis*.) These Nuthatches made their appearance in scattering pairs among the blue gum trees, live oaks and almond trees. In the latter they seemed to find abundant food as I noted them busy picking into the nuts on September 3, 1898. They were common in the gum trees about the Oakland hills and in Marin Co., where I am told they were seen in large bands. This is their first appearance at Haywards since October 24, 1882.

WESTERN GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. (*Regulus satrapa olivaceus*.) Observed feeding among the willows back of Oakland on October 22, 1898. Have not been noticed about Haywards since October 16, 1884.

TOWNSEND'S SPARROW. (*P. iliaca unalaschcensis*.) Have been unusually common this fall, coming into the gardens about the house and hedges but generally shy and keeping to the thick brush of the creek banks and canon sides. The earliest arrival in ten years' observations is for this season, September 25, 1898.

RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER. (*Sphyrapicus ruber*.) Have seen an unusual number of this alpine species, a number having taken a fancy to a big blue gum (eucalyptus) tree in the yard, where, on warm sunny days, they would go to peck holes and suck the rich sap that flows freely in the cold fall months. One I found in a willow tree trying to get the best of a yellow jacket's nest, dodging back and forth either to get a mouthful of their stored sweets or the jackets themselves. Most of the fall birds have a darker colored breast than the spring plumaged birds which are bright scarlet. They arrive at Haywards in October and November and again in March on their way to the high Sierras.

MOUNTAIN SONG SPARROW. (*Melospiza fasciata montana*.) A pair of these Sparrows I took on December 16, 1897 among the dead bull rushes on the edge of a salt marsh below Haywards, forming a new county record. They are a form of *Melospiza* easily overlooked by most collectors, as also is *M. fasciata guttata*. The latter have been seen several times this winter. My records for Haywards have been March 10, 1880, November 23, 1882, October 28, 1883, January 18, 1888 and October 13, 1898.

W. OTTO EMERSON, Haywards, Cal. Dec. 9, 1898.

Persistent Nesting of the Anna's Hummingbird. For several years an Anna's Hummingbird had reared her young in a cork elm in front of my home, and in 1897 I again welcomed her. On Feb. 16 the nest contained one egg but that night a heavy wind storm brushed it against an adjoining limb and the little home was ruined. March 10 the nest containing the second set of eggs situated about twenty feet from the first, fell into the hands of an eager collector. Weeks passed, and although the dainty song of the male was often heard from his favorite perch on a telegraph wire, the female could not be found. Imagine my surprise when on April 23 as I was passing down the steps, I saw the third nest not six inches from my head. I could not molest it, but unfortunately I am not the only collector in the world, and in a few days the eggs were gone, and yet the good mother was not disheartened for in a week she was carrying material for the fourth nest, which she was constructing on one of the previous year. This time four was the charm. The nests were all of similar construction, the first one, however, containing a number of feathers.

ERNEST ADAMS, San Jose, Cal.

Notes on Lewis' Woodpecker. This woodpecker (*Melanerpes torquatus*) is interesting from the fact that it is neither a winter nor summer bird in this vicinity, but one of the most industrious foragers I have observed. Last summer there were but few acorns and I failed to notice a single bird though I am told that a few of them appeared but left immediately upon the advent of a spell of exceedingly warm weather. It is my belief that it was not the warm weather, but the lack of acorns that induced them to leave. This summer I observed the first bird during the last week in August and by the first of September they were observed by hundreds in one locality. From the diversity of size and plumage I am certain that the parent birds were accompanied by their broods. Their favorite resort is an eastern slope, wooded with white and live oak with now and then a bull pine and some clumps of underbrush, chaparral etc. Here there were acorns in abundance and the birds were numerous. They are now greatly diminished in numbers and less clamorous, but scattering birds may be seen in the hills, always haunting the oaks. The little Californian Woodpecker resents the intrusion and may often be seen sprinting after its big cousin, with malice in every movement. I am curious to know where the birds nest and if the acorn forms any part of their food, or whether it is the tender grub which induces them to such industry. Again I would like to know why these birds store up so much food and then leave it for other birds to eat, for certain it is that they are not here to eat it themselves. JOHN M. WELCH, Copperopolis, Calaveras Co., Cal. Dec. 18, 1898.

Notes on Audubon's Warbler and the Individuality of Eggs. In order to satisfy my curiosity, I shot a male Audubon's Warbler on Jan. 17 and placed the contents of its stomach under a microscope. I found that it contained, with the exception of a small black beetle, and a worm about one-half inch long, nothing but bits of grass. These warblers are abundant every year during the winter in this locality. They spend most of their time on the ground, feeding on grass in the orchards.

In further proof of the individuality of eggs, I have sets of eggs in my collection from two pairs of California Shrikes. Both pair nest within one-half mile of my home and I have taken eggs from each for the past five years. The eggs of pair No. 1 are smaller and rounder than the average specimens, and are very lightly marked. I have two sets in my collection from this bird. In No. 2 the eggs are all heavily marked. I have four sets of eggs from this bird and were it not for the set mark, an egg taken from one set and placed with the other sets from the same bird could not be distinguished.

WM. L. ATKINSON, Santa Clara, Cal.

Hylocichla Ustulata Oedica in the Sierra Nevadas. Mr. Oberholser in the *Auk* Jan. 1899 mentions Marysville as one of the breeding localities of his new subspecies, —*oedica*. I am certain the Marysville *ustulata* is a much better singer than that of Santa Cruz and other coast localities where I have heard it, or in any of the many localities in the Sierra Nevadas. By the way, it is rarely found above 4,500 ft. altitude on the west slope, but like several species it ranges up to nearly 7,000 ft. on the east slope. Some of these, as I remember them, are the House Finch and Bullock's Oriole. Our Yellow-billed Magpie seldom gets up to 2,000 ft. although the Black-billed Magpie gets up to at least 7,000 ft. I see one or more nearly every year at the summit of the C. P. R. R. At Truckee, Cal. and vicinity it is very common.

LYMAN BELDING, Stockton, Cal.

Early Bird Arrivals for 1899. VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW (*Tachycineta thalassina*.) Observed Dec. 31, 1898. I thought this a rather unusual date to see a number of Swallows which I took to be this species, flying about in a violent rain and wind-storm at Point Reyes Station, Cal.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia arctica*.) Feb. 5, 1899. At Pinole, Contra Costa Co., Cal. I met with a large flock of these birds scattered all through a small valley of freshly-plowed ground. They were there by hundreds and any number

could have been secured. When met with they were feeding in precisely the manner of a Sparrow Hawk; they would pause fluttering in one spot, suddenly swooping down on some insect and immediately resume another position as before, always facing a strong wind which was blowing at the time.

T. E. SLEVIN, San Francisco, Cal.

Oregon Vesper Sparrow in Alameda Co. On the afternoon of October 8, 1898 while coming over the foot-hills north-east of Oakland, I shot an Oregon Vesper Sparrow, *Pooecetes gramineus affinis*. It was an adult male; one from a flock of five that were feeding among some tall grass, growing between two stubble-fields. The flock was so hidden in the tall grass, that I saw none except my bird until I fired, when the rest flew up, and were soon lost over the crest of a hill. So far as I have been able to learn, this is the first Oregon Vesper Sparrow taken in Alameda County, although two weeks later, on October 22, '98 Mr. C. W. Randall took an adult female from the same field, and presumably from the same flock. November 5, again found me in this field after another Vesper Sparrow, but I was doomed to disappointment, for I could not find a single bird.

JOHN M. WILLARD, 2221 Elm St., Oakland, Cal.

American Crossbills in Alameda Co., Cal. For many years I have been on the watch for the Crossbill in this part of the San Francisco Bay region, having seen them on several trips in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. The former county lies along the ocean shore and in an air line from this locality, so I have naturally expected to some day see a few stragglers appear. In the first part of January of this year, at daylight on two or three occasions I noticed a flock of thick-set, quick-flying, piping birds leave the tops of some tall gum trees on the place and fly away. One morning I saw them fly to the top of some tall poplars, where I went to make out the species if possible. I saw at once that they were Crossbills and were feeding on the buds. Later in the day they flew to a large gum tree beside the house, where, after some delay, I made them out with the glass and soon secured one. Another was shot from the top of a Monterey cypress where they had gone to feed on the seeds of the cones, as I found later, on skinning them. Of the two birds shot on Jan. 26, 1899 one was in a greenish-red plumage showing a juvenile and was very fat with the crop full of soft seeds of the cypress and eucalyptus. The other male was of a rich golden-green plumage, flecked with cherry-red, showing an immature bird. On Jan. 30, 1899 a male was found dead under the big gum tree, and which must have been wounded by a long shot taken at the flock in the top of the tall trees and died on the cold night of the 30th. This was a male in adult plumage of a purplish-red with a few yellowish and gray feathers showing in the throat. The body of this bird was very thin. The weather becoming milder in a day or so the Crossbills disappeared, no doubt for their breeding grounds in the pine forests. I saw them in pairs in January 1897 at Pacific Grove where they could be heard in the pine-tops feeding on the seeds of the cones. This was on the edge of a small pond back in the forest. I have seen them come to the water's edge to drink. So far as I can find data this is their first appearance in Alameda Co. and I should be pleased to hear from anyone in the state who has observed them.

W. OTTO EMERSON, Haywards, Cal.

Albino Dwarf Hermit Thrush and Western Robin. Jan. 12, 1899 being a cold windy day drew many birds about the garden to feed, and while watching them from a window, one attracted my attention by its odd plumage, looking as though it had just arrived from the snowy regions. On shooting it I found it to be a partial albino Dwarf Hermit Thrush. Three outer tail feathers on one side are pure white while those of the other side are only tipped. The secondaries of the wing on one side were white-tipped, also several scattered white feathers on the rump and back. It proved to be a female and quite fat.

On Feb. 15, 1899 what was my great surprise upon shooting a Western Robin

from a pepper tree to have drop at my feet one flecked all over with pure white feathers, particularly on the red breast, giving it a beautiful effect. The white feathers seemed to be much worn on the edges as though cut. This proved to be a female in good condition. Many of the birds of the high Sierras have been driven down nearer the coast than usual this winter. Mountain Bluebirds have been noticed for the first time in ten years. They spend their time hovering on the wing much like the Sparrow Hawks, over the early-sowed grain fields near the Bay shores. Their last appearance was Nov. 1, 1889. Observed this year on Feb. 11, 1899.

W. OTTO EMERSON, Haywards, Cal., Feb. 20, 1899.

California Clapper Rail in Alameda Co. It would be a wise move for the Supervisors of Alameda county to declare a closed season, or two successive closed seasons, on Rail. This is the only means of preventing this fine bird, now almost absent from our marshes, from becoming annihilated. The abundance of birds after two closed seasons several years ago demonstrated the wisdom of such a law. All the sportsmen I have spoken to on this subject are heartily in favor of a closed or much shortened open season. Time, trouble and boat hire are now wasted and even the dog doesn't see any sport in returning empty-handed after a tramp through the salt grass and sticky mud.

D. A. COHEN, Alameda, Cal.

Western Evening Grosbeak in Santa Clara Co., Cal. January 2, 1899 there appeared within the limits of San Jose, Cal., a flock of Western Evening Grosbeaks, (*Coccothraustes vespertinus montanus*) one of which, a male, was procured.

Jan. 17, a friend brought me two more males for identification. They were shot from a small flock in an orchard three miles southwest of San Jose. The birds were fat and oily, their stomachs containing buds of trees. At this time the weather was warm and there was but little snow upon the mountains. So far as I know, this constitutes a record for Santa Clara county, it being the first recorded appearance of this alpine species in the valley. ERNEST ADAMS, San Jose, Cal.

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The Myrtle Warbler in California and Description of a New Race.

BY RICHARD C. MCGREGOR.

THE Myrtle Warbler has been recorded as an occasional visitant along the whole Pacific Coast of the United States from San Francisco north, while its breeding haunts have been located in British Columbia,¹ and by Mr. C. H. Townsend² it was found breeding on the Kowak River in Alaska. Baird says "Stragglers were seen on Puget Sound and one was taken by Dr. Suckley at Fort Steilacoom, W. T. May 1, 1856."³ The check-list gives it as "straggling more or less commonly westward to the Pacific."⁴

By Mr. Belding this species is recorded from the following localities: Willamette Valley, Nicasio, Alameda and Contra Costa counties, Haywards, Murphys, Stockton, Marysville and Summit. He also says "In fall and winter it (Myrtle Warbler) is not easily distinguished from Audubon's Warbler and being much less numerous than the latter, is likely to be overlooked in California."⁵ In the middle west I find this warbler recorded from Boerne, South-western Texas, in spring;⁶ Colorado, 9000 feet in spring;⁷ South-eastern Dakota in spring and summer migration⁸, abundant migrant in western Manitoba⁹.

I have taken the Myrtle Warbler near Denver, Colorado during spring migration. During the past year Mr. T. J. Hoover has taken near Palo Alto about thirty warblers of which thirteen are easily recognizable as *Dendroica coronata*, the others being *D. auduboni*. Besides those collected by him, Mr.

1. Belding's Land Birds Pac. Dist. 210. 2. Auk. IV, 13. 3. Birds N. Am. 272. 4. A. O. U. Check-list, 257. 5. Land Birds Pac. Dist. 210. 6. Auk. I, 121. 7. Ibid. II, 15. 8. Ibid. II, 278. 9. Ibid. III, 326.

Hoover has three Myrtle Warblers as follows: Berryessa, Beck; Sonoma, Feb. 2, 1897, Carriger; Battle Creek, Oct. 8, 1898, ♀ McGregor. From these records it seems that *D. coronata* is distributed throughout the territory west of the Mississippi. There is little doubt that a more careful examination in this region will place the Myrtle among our common migrant species.

The following MS. notes on the Myrtle Warbler as observed near Palo Alto, kindly furnished by Mr. Hoover are of interest in this connection: "Last spring I several times noticed a small black and white warbler which was at first referred to *Dendroica nigrescens*, but when secured, three examples proved to be *D. coronata* in which the spring moult was nearly completed. Two of these, male and female, were shot on April 10 in small bushes along San Francisco Creek and one male April 16 near the same spot. Two others were seen April 9. Further observation may show that this warbler is a regular spring migrant, instead of accidental as heretofore recorded."

Mr. H. Ward Carriger of Sonoma, California has permitted me to incorporate his notes also in my present paper. Mr. Carriger says:

"Previous to the year 1896 I had never secured any specimens of this bird but found them quite common during that year. They were first noticed along a creek in the valley and it was their note which first attracted attention. I secured two specimens on Jan. 21, which appeared to be young of the year. After this date they were common and twenty or more could be seen whenever I visited the hills, where they seemed to stay more than the Audubon's. They were common in 1897, and at the present time (Dec. 1898) are as abundant as Audubon's. There is some difference in the call notes of the two warblers, but both arrive and leave together."

Having compared a fairly good series of eastern and western skins, I have found no difference in colors or markings between the two lots, but there is such a discrepancy in wing and tail lengths, both for males and females, that I believe the western bird may be recognized as having subspecific rank. I will therefore suggest that the new race be known as:

***Dendroica coronata hooveri* subsp. nov. HOOVER'S WARBLER.**

Subsp. char. In colors and markings like *Dendroica coronata*, but with wing and tail much longer.

Type, No. 1988, ♂ ad. Coll. T. J. Hoover, Palo Alto, California, April 16, 1898. In summer plumage. Above bluish-slate, streaked with black; top of head more finely streaked; crown, rump and sides with patches of lemon yellow; superciliary stripe, eyelids, throat, belly, spots behind nostrils, two bars on wings and spot on inner web of three outer tail feathers, white; cheeks and lores, black; feathers of breast black centered. Wing, 3.00; tail 2.31; exposed culmen, .38.

Geog. Dist. Western United States, breeding probably in British Columbia and Alaska.

The presence or absence of yellow on the throat is quite sufficient to distinguish spring examples of *D. auduboni* and *D. hooveri*, but with fall or winter specimens this mark is not so evident, when the following diagnoses may be of help.

Throat, yellow; white patch on wing; white of tail on inner webs of four or five outer feathers; a white spot on each eyelid; no white spot in front of eye; lores, bluish ash.

auduboni.

Throat, white; two white bands on wings; white spots of tail on three outer feathers; eyelids and a superciliary stripe, white; the latter often interrupted in front of eye; lores, black.

hooveri.

None of these characters alone are enough to identify winter birds; all of the differences must be considered before passing on a specimen. The table of measurements shows the relative sizes of males and females of eastern and western forms. I have also given measurements of five males of Audubon's Warbler. No material from the middle west has been available for the present paper so that the eastern range of the new race remains to be determined. It will probably be found to intergrade with *D. coronata*.

I am indebted to Mr. L. M. Loomis for the use of birds in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences. This new form is named for my friend, Mr. Theodore J. Hoover, who collected the types and kindly placed his material in my hands for examination.

Locality.	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed Culmen.	Date.	Collector.	Number.	Collection of
California Males.							
Oakland	3 06	2 28	.34	Apr. 2, 1885			C. A. S.
Nicasio	3 07	2 34	.38	Apr. 12, 1879			"
Cloverdale	3 05	2 30	.34	Apr. 3, 1885			"
Sonoma	3 00	2 38	.34	Feb. 2, 1897	Carriger	1989	Hoover
Palo Alto	2 98	2 22	.39	Apr. 10, 1898	Hoover	1990	"
"	3 00	2 31	.38	Apr. 16, 1898	"	1988	" type
"	2 98	2 34	.34	Nov. 20, 1898	"	1998	"
Average	3 02	2 30	.36				
Eastern Males.							
Marlboro, Mass.	2 90	2 20	.37	May 6, 1884	W. E. Bryant		C. A. S.
" "	2 93	2 26	.32	" "	" "		"
" "	2 86	2 08	.37	" "	" "		"
Washington, D. C.	2 85	2 24	.34	May 10, 1886	C W Richmond		"
" "	2 87	2 13	.34	Nov. 30, 1888	"		"
" "	2 80	2 10	.32	May 13, 1888	"		"
" "	2 82	2 09	.37	May 2, 1890	J. W. Piggins		"
Waterloo, Ind.	2 95	2 20	.34	Oct. 15, 1894	J. O. Snyder	3151	Stan'd Univ.
Average	2 87	2 16	.35				
California Females.							
Nicasio	2 88	2 26	.34	Apr. 11, 1879			C. A. S.
Oakland	2 84	2 22	.33	Apr. 3, 1885	W. E. Bryant		"
West Berkeley	2 92	2 16	.34	Nov. 26, 1885	T. S. Palmer		"
Palo Alto	2 96	2 27	.39	Apr. 10, 1898	Hoover	1995	Hoover
"	2 77	2 16	.36	Mar. 20, 1898	"	1992	"
"	2 90	2 24	.36	Feb. 26, 1898	"	1993	"
"	2 84	2 28	.38	Apr. 4, 1898	"		"
"	2 92	2 24	.38	Apr. 10, 1898	"	1999	"
"	2 90	2 20	.34	Jan. 17, 1899	"	2000	"
Battle Creek	2 82	2 13	.36	Oct. 8, 1898	McGregor	1991	"
Average	2 87	2 22	.36				
Eastern Females.							
Marlboro, Mass.	2 83	2 08	.35	May 6, 1884	W. E. Bryant		C. A. S.
" "	2 72	2 06	.36	" "	" "		"
Natick, Mass.	2 72	2 02	.31	May 1885	E. J. Smith	7795	"
Washington, D. C.	3 02	2 18	.34	Oct. 8, 1888	"		"
Chester Co., Pa.	2 85	2 05	.36	May 11, 1894	H. Garrett	1980	Hoover
"	2 79	2 07	.37	May 13, 1892	"	1981	"
"	2 94	2 22	.35	Oct. 13, 1891	"	1996	"
"	2 66	2 16	.38	May 11, 1894	"	1994	"
"	2 68	2 09	.35	May 16, 1892	"	1982	"
Raleigh, N. C.	2 78	2 09	.33	Apr. 24, 1893	H H & C S Brimley	1983	"
Average	2 70	2 10	.35				
<i>Dendroica auduboni.</i>							
Males taken at Palo Alto,	3 00	2 18	.38	Apr. 10, 1898		1986	
by T. J. Hoover.	3 05	2 28	.40	" "		1987	
	3 06	2 30	.35	" "		1985	
	2 98	2 22	.39	Apr. 13, 1898		1997	
	3 09	2 25	.37	Jan. 4, 1899		1984	
Average	3 03	2 24	.37				

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of the
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Notes of interest and striking ornithological photo-
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When extra copies are desired, they should be ordered
at the time of communicating the article.

Write plainly and confine your article to one side of the
sheet.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

We shall print from time to time, the por-
traits of well known Californian ornithologists,
and as a commencement of the series Mr.
Emerson's likeness appears in this issue.

It is so seldom that the veteran ornithologi-
cal workers of California appear in print, that
we present Mr. Belding's notes on the Audu-
bon's Hermit Thrush in this issue with pleas-
ure. The BULLETIN is also under obligation
to Mr. Belding for a recent generous donation
to the Club's publishing fund.

Commencing with this issue there will ap-
pear upon this page of the BULLETIN, the date
upon which the paper is mailed to subscribers.
This is done to give an actual date of publica-
tion to the contributions, for in the case of
certain articles such as records or descriptions
of birds and hitherto unknown observations
on their nesting habits, priority is an essential
feature. The BULLETIN wishes to protect the
rights of its contributors in a matter to which
we believe all scientific journals should give
attention. No. 1 was mailed Jan. 14.

In keeping with the onward march of the
protection of game, the sportsmen of Santa
Barbara Co. have recently organized a county
Game Protective Association, with the promise
that it will enforce the existing State and
County laws governing the unlawful taking of
game and fish. Mr. Alfred P. Redington of
Santa Barbara, one of the Cooper Club's active
members, is secretary of the new organization

and if all its members prove as active as Mr.
Redington in the work, we venture to say a
wholesome respect for the law will soon be in-
spired in those who hunt and fish out of sea-
son. The secretary writes: "We have the mis-
fortune to deal with a class of vandals at the
upper end of this great county who seem in-
clined to look at all such law and order, or
any attempt to enforce it, as an outrage on the
rights of an American citizen." To which we
add that the quicker these "citizens" are re-
lieved of their "rights" in this direction the
better. We wish the new organization in
Santa Barbara county every success and hope
it may stimulate the sportsmen of other coun-
ties to similar action for the necessity of game
protection is becoming more evident each
year.

As we go to press the *Bulletin of the Michi-
gan Ornithological Club* reaches us in the form
of a neat double number which completes Vol.
2 of this creditable publication. With this
number Mr. Leon J. Cole becomes Editor-in-
Chief with Percy Selous and Dr. Robt. H.
Wolcott as associates. The Michigan Club is
doing valuable, systematic work in its state
and its *Bulletin* which affords a means of dis-
pensing the results of the Club's work, merits
the support of all. The *Bulletin* always pre-
sents an attractive appearance and a substan-
tial table of contents, with many short notes,
which cannot fail to interest the ornithologist.
The BULLETIN reciprocates the compliments
of its Michigan contemporary and wishes it all
success for 1899.

We are happy to note that the *Osprey*, after
some delay occasioned by its "migration"
from New York to Washington D. C. and the
necessity of a change of printers when the
back numbers were well under way, is now
almost even on its issues and will soon be on
time each month with its wealth of bird news.
With Mr. Fuertes as Art Editor we shall ex-
pect some nice things in the line of plates, al-
though we could wish for nothing more than
some of the surpassing bird groups he has
given us during the past year. Under the
editorial management of Dr. Coes some strik-
ing department features have been introduced.
Current topics and reviews are handled under
the caption "In the Osprey's Claws" in a mas-
terly and impartial manner. While the *Os-
prey* will doubtless continue to show a full list
of prominent contributors, we venture to say
that Dr. Coes' able editorial management will
attract many subscribers in itself. Many in-
teresting articles grace the October, November
and December numbers and the *Osprey* has the
field it aspires to fill all to itself. That it will
fill it most satisfactorily no one will doubt and
we trust all Californians will accord it support.

The BULLETIN finds it necessary to issue
twenty pages with this number, in order to
dispose of a quantity of delayed material on
hand. With eighty active members in the
field, covering a large territory, our readers
can feel assured of missing nothing in the way
of news notes from the West.

This issue of the Bulletin was mailed Mar. 15.

Description of a New California Song Sparrow.

BY RICHARD C. MCGREGOR.

EXAMINATION of a small series of *Melospiza* from Battle Creek shows that there exist in the northern Sacramento valley two races of the Song Sparrow. Four examples sent Mr. Robert Ridgway were thus commented upon by him: "Three of those from Battle Creek are typical *M. f. heermanni*, by far the most northern specimens I have seen of that form, and proving, I think, that this is the resident form of the Sacramento basin, as I had already suspected. It is this form which breeds at Stockton. The fourth Battle Creek specimen is probably best referred to *M. f. guttata* although it is really an intermediate between that form and *M. f. montana* or possibly *heermanni*; much nearer, however, to *guttata*."

Since taking this specimen above called "intermediate", I have secured three song sparrows of similar plumage at Battle Creek and on reaching home I find in my collection two sparrows of a dark plumage, one from Enterprise, Butte Co., and the other from St. Helena, Napa Co. These six skins are easily distinguished from either *heermanni* or *guttata* and form the types of an undescribed race to which I give the name:

***Melospiza fasciata ingersolli*, subsp. nov. TEHAMA SONG SPARROW.**

Subsp. char. Most closely related to *guttata* but darker and without rusty wash; spotting of lower parts tending more to streaks than to spots as in *guttata*; wing slightly longer. Entire upper parts, sides of head and flanks are darker and less grayish than in *heermanni*.

Type. No. 2222, ♂ ad. Coll. R. C. McG., Battle Creek, California, Oct. 19, 1898. Wing, 2.82; tail, 2.74; tarsus, .88; exposed culmen, .44.

Geog. Dist. Northern Sacramento valley, south in winter to San Francisco Bay.

Without a Nomenclature of Colors it is impossible for me to describe the absolute colors of the three forms; typical specimens of the new race are in no way to be confused with *heermanni*. From *guttata* it is distinguished by the much darker and browner dorsum, with centers of feathers almost black; crown stripe obsolete; entire plumage lacking the rusty or reddish brown which is characteristic of *guttata*.

Beside the Battle Creek skins four others seem worthy of mention.

No. 1564. Enterprise, Cal., Oct. 15, 1896. This bird is easily referable to *ingersolli* though not so dark on the back as are the types.

No. 1346. Saint Helena, Cal., Dec. 21, 1897. This is intermediate between *guttata* and the new form.

No. 1345. Saint Helena, Cal., Dec. 22, 1897. Very dark; markings of back almost obsolete; referable to *ingersolli*.

No. 1563. Sebastopol, Sonoma Co., Cal., Dec. 2, 1884. This skin is typical *guttata*.

Specimens from Beaverton, Or., have been used as representing *M. f. guttata*.

I take pleasure in naming this race for my friend, Mr. Albert M. Ingersoll of San Diego, California.

TABLE OF MEASUREMENTS.

	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Exposed Culmen.
<i>M. f. guttata</i> Beaverton, 5 skins	2.58-2.78 (.269)	2.60-2.70 (.267)	.84-.86 (.85)	.44-.47 (.45)
<i>M. f. heermanni</i> Battle Cr'k, 4 skins	2.64-2.75 (.271)	2.66-2.78 (.273)	.73-.80 (.77)	.40-.44 (.42)
<i>M. f. ingersolli</i> 4 skins	2.61-2.82 (.272)	2.45-2.76 (.265)	.82-.88 (.85)	.44-.46 (.45)

Official Minutes of Southern Division.

The January meeting of the Division was held on Jan. 28, 1899 at 403 Bradbury Block, Los Angeles, President McCormick presiding and Messrs. McCormick, Leland, Swarth, Wicks and Robertson present. Messrs. Wall and Warner of San Bernardino were present as visitors. The resolutions regarding the BULLETIN matter as drawn up by the Northern Division were approved and adopted. Resolutions respecting the death of J. Maurice Hatch of Escondido who died on May 1, 1898 were adopted as follows:

Whereas by the death of J. Maurice Hatch, the Cooper Ornithological Club of California has lost an able and efficient member, and one of its most devoted students of bird life, be it

Resolved that we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the members of his bereaved family and be it further

Resolved that a copy of these resolutions be enrolled in the minutes of this meeting; that a copy be sent to the family and that the same be published in the BULLETIN.

Mr. W. E. Tyler of Los Angeles was unanimously elected to active membership. The name of J. J. Schneider of Anaheim was proposed for membership. A bill for \$1.15 for expenses was ordered paid. A paper entitled "A Day with the Raptors" from the Northern Division was read after which the meeting adjourned to meet at Pasadena February 25.

The Division met Feb. 25, 1899 at the residence of F. S. Daggett in Pasadena, President McCormick calling the meeting to order. Those present were F. S. Daggett, A. I. McCormick, H. S. Swarth, M. L. Wicks Jr., F. Reiser, Chas. Grosbeck and Howard Robertson. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. J. J. Schneider of Anaheim was elected to active membership. The following papers were read: "Summer Resident Warblers of Arizona" by O. W. Howard and "Capture of a California Condor" by H. G. Rising. After general discussion the meeting adjourned to meet at Mr. Grosbeck's on March 25.



Publications Received.

Auk, XVI, No. I, Jan. 1899.

Bird Lore, I, No. I, Feb. 1899.

In the initial number of his charming publication, Mr. Chapman has made good the guarantee of his prospectus, and presents to the public just such a magazine as every bird lover will delight in. The leading articles "In Warbler Time" and "The Camera as an Aid in the Study of Birds" cannot fail to interest those who would be close communers with Nature, while the illustrations amply fulfill our expectations. In fostering the work of the Audubon Society and in promoting a general interest in the birds and their protection, *Bird Lore* deserves the support of every lover of nature.

Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club II. Nos. 3-4. July-Dec., 1898.

Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society I, No. I, Jan. 1899.

The Maine ornithologists have reached the conclusion that to work successfully an official organ is required, which shall be devoted solely to the interests of their Society. Accordingly the initial number of the *Journal* has been issued, and with the names of such well known workers as Ora W. Knight, C. H. Morrell and others at the head, we cannot doubt that it will represent well the ornithology of the great state in which it is published. The initial number contains a report of the Society's annual meeting with several excellent papers which were read. We wish the new publication success and a substantial increase in its pages at an early date.

Maine Sportsman, VI. Nos. 66-67, Feb.-Mar., 1899.

Museum, V. Nos. 3 and 4, Jan., Feb. 1899.

Oologist XVI. Nos. 1 and 2, Jan., Feb. 1899.

Osprey III. Nos. 2, 3 and 4, Oct.-Dec. 1898.

Wilson Bulletin VI. No. 1, Jan. 1899.



Expedition off for the Tropics.

On February 25 there sailed from San Francisco in the schooner *Stella Erland* as extensive an expedition as has recently visited tropical waters. The expedition has ornithology chiefly in view and is under the command of Mr. A. W. Anthony, the well known worker of California. Those accompanying him are H. B. Kaeding, Chase Littlejohn and R. H. Beck, ornithologists; R. C. McGregor, ichthyologist; J. M. Gaylord, botanist; Geo. Spencer and Chas. Jones, assistants and Arthur Whitlock, steward. The expedition sails direct for Amapala, Honduras, C. A. where the Gulf of Fonseca will be carefully examined for specimens. Thence to Cocos Island and the Galapagos group. If time permits the party will then probably go west to Christmas, Fanning and Palmyra, returning home by way of the Sandwich Islands. Attention will be given chiefly to birds, fishes and plants, but marine invertebrates and mammals will also be collected. The expedition will be absent about eight months and with such an array of scientists we may expect some valuable work to be accomplished.

Mr. Wallace Homer, a member of the Maine Ornithological Society, paid the editor a pleasant call on Feb. 27 while en route to his home in Maine, after a pleasant visit through California.

Mr. O. W. Howard of Los Angeles is on his way to the Huachuca Mts. in Arizona, where he will put in the season collecting. He is travelling by wagon and has a good opportunity to thoroughly examine the country. He reports a set of Le Conte's Thrasher taken Jan. 30 at Indio, Cal; also a single Western Horned Owl's egg taken near Phoenix, Ariz. a short time since.

Mr. F. S. Daggett of Pasadena, who has been suffering from a severe attack of "grip" has entirely recovered.

Exchange Notices.

Each member of the Club, not in arrears for dues, is entitled to three exchange notices of 30 words each during the year; other subscribers, one such notice.

WANTED—Nidologist, Vol. I, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 in good condition. Will give good exchange or pay cash. A few California sets to exchange. Send lists. W. L. ATKINSON, Santa Clara, Cal.

I PAY CASH for *Osprey* of Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., 1896; Feb., Sept., Oct., Nov., 1897; Jan., 1898. Or will exchange other copies. One complete file and odd copies for sale. W. A. JOHNSON. 137 W. 103d St., New York City.

WOULD LIKE to collect in exchange, series of common bird skins, for those of other localities. South-western and Eastern especially desired.

T. E. SLEVIN.

2413 Sacramento St., San Francisco.

WILL EXCHANGE first class land birds of northwest coast of California for any shore birds and particularly any of the game birds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, finches, sparrows, swallows, warblers, wrens, titmice and thrushes. Lists on application for the next six months. Will also exchange photos of birds, eggs and nests for same from life. W. OTTO EMERSON, Haywards, Cal.

—BULLETIN OF THE—

Michigan Ornithological Club.

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Books & Periodicals, Stephentown, N. Y.

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